GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:680
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2005
OPPOSITION BY KERALA ON RIVERS LINKING PROEJCT
Surendran Shri Chengara

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Agency on Rivers linking Project is going ahead with the Vaipar Link Project in Tamil Nadu inspite of the strong opposition of the Government of Kerala;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government would instruct the agency to examine the contentious issues raised against the project by the Government of Kerala;

(c) whether the Union Government has received a resolution against implementation of Vaipar Project; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR HEAVY INDUSTRIES, PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV)

(a) & (b) National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has prepared a feasibility report of transferring surplus water of Pamba and Achankovil situated in Kerala to Vaippar river basin in Tamil Nadu. The Government of Kerala has some reservations on the studies done which have been clarified by NWDA. These issues have been further discussed in the meetings of Technical Advisory Committee, Governing Body and Society of NWDA held from time to time. After detailed deliberations in 19th Annual General Meeting of the NWDA Society held on 26.3.2003 which was also attended by Shri T.M. Jacob, Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources, Government of Kerala, President of the Society decided that NWDA and Government of Kerala jointly carry out a study for Pamba-Achankovil and Vembanad wet land system. Government of Kerala subsequently expressed its inability to abide by the decision.

(c) & (d) The Government of Kerala has forwarded a copy of the Resolution dated 6.8.2003 adopted unanimously by the Kerala Legislative Assembly urging the Central Government to give up the Pamba-Achankovil-Vaippar Link Project completely. The Ministry of Water Resources has taken note of the Resolution of the Kerala Legislative Assembly and has decided not to treat Pamba-Achankovil-Vaippar link as a priority link for consensus building purpose.